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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/904,986	07/13/2001	Colin Lawrence Kilgour	101384-9	3820

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EXAMINER

CHENCINSKI, SIEGFRIED E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3628

DATE MAILED: 05/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/904,986	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KILGOUR ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Siegfried E. Chencinski	<b>Art Unit</b> 3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. **Claim 37 is objected to** because of the following informalities: The claim is dependent on itself.  
Appropriate correction is required.
2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: A typographical error exists on page 9, line 14. The word "hold" is used twice in the phrase "must hold typically hold the asset". The first "hold" appears to be extraneous.  
Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1-17 and 19-39 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (hereafter AAPA), Barron's Dictionary of Finance and Investment Terms (Fifth Edition, hereafter Barron's), Gulati (US Patent 6,778,968 B1) and Official Notice.

**Re. Claims 1 & 22,** AAPA discloses the following method and systems as being prior art at the time of Applicant's invention:

- "Typically, commercial transactions between businesses involve the seller of a good or service ("merchant") delivering the good or service to the purchaser ("buyer") in advance of receiving payment. From the time that the good/service is delivered until such time as the buyer pays for it, the merchant is said to have an account receivable with the buyer. The AR is a financial asset that indicates

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the expectation of future payment according to the terms of the commercial relationship between the merchant and buyer". (Page 2, ll. 18-24).

- Applicant admits that the prior art has included the securitization of accounts receivable (AR) by and for large corporations and that "the fees inherent in the securitization process render this means of accessing capital markets inefficient for all but large commercial entities" (Specification, page 4, l. 24 – page 5, l. 4).
- In the context of Applicant's invention a person which owns an accounts receivable is an individual or an entity given protection of limited liability by a government authority.
- A merchant's buyer and a merchant are defined Applicant as follows: "Typically, commercial transactions between businesses involve the seller of a good or service ("merchant") delivering the good or service to the purchaser ("buyer") in advance of receiving payment." (Specification, page 2, ll. 18-20).

**AAPA does not** explicitly disclose a method and system for facilitating a financial investment in at least one accounts receivable owned by a first person, comprising the steps performed by a systems manager using a computer-based system of:

- enrolling the at least one accounts receivable owned by the first person as a lot for a trade using a computer database;
- receiving at least one bid from at least one bidder for purchasing the lot; and,
- determining the result of the trade for the lot, wherein each account receivable of the at least one accounts receivable is associated with a merchant's buyer and a merchant.

However, **Barron's** discloses the following definition of securitization: securitization is a "process of distributing risk by aggregating debt instruments in a pool, then issuing new securities backed by the pool. See *also* ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES" (page 551). "ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES – bonds or notes backed by loan paper or **accounts receivable** (bolding added)... often "enhanced" by a bank LETTER OF CREDIT or by insurance coverage provided by an institution other than the issuer. Typically, the originator of the loan or accounts receivable paper sells it to a specially created trust, which repackages it as securities with a minimum denomination of \$ 1000 and a term of five years or less. The securities are then underwritten by brokerage firms who reoffer them to the public." (pp. 30-31).

**Gulati** discloses the following about securitization:

"When a person or entity borrows money from a lender, the borrower must sign a promissory note promising to repay the home loan and a mortgage note (or deed of trust) to serve as collateral for the loan. The bearer of such notes has a legal claim to the underlying property until the mortgage loan is either paid in full or refinanced. When a lender has distributed all of its available funds, the lender will

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often raise money by selling groups of notes (mortgage loans) to investors. The selling of mortgage loans to investors is referred to as the secondary mortgage market.

Loans sold on the secondary markets are often bundled and securitized. Securitization is the repackaging of non-negotiable securities into negotiable securities (e.g., issuing securities against future cash flows such as mortgage backed securities). Complete securitization of a financial intermediary's assets removes the need for deposits as funds that would be recouped when the assets were securitized. In pure form, securities remove default risk and interest rate risk from balance sheets.

For example, mortgage backed securities are created when loans are packaged, or "pooled", by issuers or servicers for sale to investors. As underlying mortgage loans are paid off by homeowners, investors receive payments of interest and principal. Investors may purchase mortgage securities when issued or afterward in the secondary market. Investments in mortgage securities are typically made by large institutions when securities are issued. These issued securities may ultimately be redistributed by dealers in the secondary market. Similarly, asset-backed securities are created when student loans, credit card debt or other forms of consumer or corporate debt are pooled. " (Col. 1, ll. 14-45).

**Gulati** also discloses a computer automated method and system for operating an exchange system for controlling and operating the exchanging of ownership interests of objects in a secondary market, including commercial real estate loans, automobile leases 610 (both individual and corporate), consumer credit (including direct financing and credit cards), home mortgages, equipment leasing, bad debt purchasing (both individual and corporate), and student. (Col. 6, ll. 8-50; Col. 9, l. 66 – Col. 10, 23).

It was well known to the ordinary practitioner at the time of Applicant's invention that the efficiencies provided by the computer revolution had been systematically applied in the world of finance, including the world of trading in financial commodities and various other kinds of securities. It was also well known that these events brought with them the resultant appearance of dramatically reduced securitization and trading fees, and the lay-offs of thousands of personnel by brokerage firms since the 1980's. Further, given that accounts receivable were a well known securitized and traded product, and in view of AAPA, the disclosures by Barron's and Gulati (all above), it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention that the economy of scale barriers to economically securitizing small value bundles of accounts receivable for much smaller commercial entities were gone and that the securitization of dramatically smaller dollar amounts of accounts receivable had been made economically feasible.

Finally, the examiner takes **Official Notice** that the following was well known at the time of Applicant's invention:

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- enrolling the at least one accounts receivable owned by the first person as a lot for a trade using a computer database;
- receiving at least one bid from at least one bidder for purchasing the lot; and,
- determining the result of the trade for the lot, wherein each account receivable of the at least one accounts receivable is associated with a merchant's buyer and a merchant.

The basis for this Official Notice are all of the above disclosures, including the operational disclosures by Gulati, which covers the trading of any securitized financial instrument, and the active market for securitized Accounts Receivable at the time of Applicant's invention..

Applicant is also advised of the following court opinion(s) regarding new combination(s) of old elements: ***In re Venner and Bowser (CCPA), 120 USPQ 192***: "Unquestionably a new combination of old elements is patentable under certain circumstances. However, we believe that this principle is subject to the conditions stated in the case of *In re Kaufman*, 39 CCPA 769, 1952 C.D. 85, 656 O.G. 279, 193 F.2d 331, 92 USPQ 141, wherein the court stated at 774, 92 USPQ at 144: \* \* \* if a new combination of old elements is to be patentable, the elements must cooperate in such manner as to produce a new, unobvious, and unexpected result. It must amount to an invention. *In re Smith*, 34 CCPA 1007, 73 USPQ 394, cited supra. In the absence of invention, utility and novelty are not sufficient to support the allowance of claims for a patent. *In re Levin*, 37 CCPA 791, 178 F.2d 945, 84 USPQ 232;"

Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system or facilitating a financial investment in at least one accounts receivable owned by a first person, comprising the steps performed by a systems manager using a computer-based system of enrolling the at least one accounts receivable owned by the first person as a lot for a trade using a computer database; receiving at least one bid from at least one bidder for purchasing the lot; and, determining the result of the trade for the lot, wherein each account receivable of the at least one accounts receivable is associated with a merchant's buyer and a merchant. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the

delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, l. 66 – Col. 6, l. 2).

**Re. Claims 2 & 33**, neither AAPA, Gulati, nor Barron's explicitly disclose the step of determining the most favorable bid comprises the steps of:

- advising the owner of the bids received;
- receiving from the owner a direction on the outcome result of the trade, the direction comprising one selected from the group consisting of:
  - acceptance of a successful bid received from a successful bidder in accordance with a pre-determined set of rules; and,
  - rejection of all the bids; and,
  - notifying the at least one bidder of the result.

However, these steps are the well known steps practiced in the trading of commodities such as financial securities. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for determining the most favorable bid as stated above. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, l. 66 – Col. 6, l. 2).

**Re. Claims 3**, Barron's discloses the enhancement of asset-backed securities such as those backed by accounts receivable in order to bring the credit quality of the security up to investment grade (p. 30, Asset-backed Securities, line 3).

**Re. Claims 4 & 31**, Barron's discloses the enhancement of asset-backed securities such as those backed by accounts receivable in order to bring the credit quality of the security up to investment grade. Barron's also discloses two types of credit enhancers, banks through letters of credit, and insurance companies (p. 30, Asset-backed Securities, line 3). The amount of enhancement as a percentage of the of the value of the accounts receivable is an implicit judgement to be made between the issuer and the market

maker related to the timing and other factors which may vary from issue to issue. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for determining the most favorable bid as stated above. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, I. 66 – Col. 6, I. 2).

**Re. Claims 5 & 32,** Barron's discloses that credit enhancement is procured by obtaining credit insurance from an insurance provider possessing an investment grade credit rating (p. 30, ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES, line 3; p. 127, CREDIT ENHANCEMENT, II. 2-8).

**Re. Claim 6,** the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's make it implicit that an accounts receivable, having enhanced credit quality to be a tradable security, is a financial instrument.

**Re. Claims 7 & 34,** Gulati discloses the providing of loan composition information as part of the portfolio valuation and pricing model. It would have been obvious to the ordinary practitioner of the art to see that this step is equivalent to the providing of information on the lot of at least one accounts receivable for examination by prospective bidders (Fig. 13, # 1306; Col. 10, I. 30, 33-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for providing information on the lot of at least one accounts receivable for examination by prospective bidders. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, I. 66 – Col. 6, I. 2).

**Re. Claims 8 & 23,** Gulati discloses the storing of securities transaction related information in a computer database which is implicitly accessible electronically (Col. 10, I. 30, 33-43).



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**Re. Claims 9 & 24**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's make the transferring of the title of the at least one accounts receivable from the first person to a successful bidder, if any, the successful bidder becoming the owner implicit.

**Re. Claims 10 & 25**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's make the facilitating of the transfer of funds from the successful bidder, if any, to the first person implicit.

**Re. Claim 11**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's make implicit the steps of:

- transferring the ownership of the at least one accounts receivable from the owner to a successful bidder, if any; and,
- facilitating the transfer of funds from the successful bidder, if any, to the owner.

**Re. Claims 12 & 36**, Gulati discloses the management of underlying assets on behalf of the owner (Col. 17, ll. 7-30).

further comprising the step of managing the at least one accounts receivable in the lot on behalf of the owner.

**Re. Claim 13**, in view of the information in the rejection of claim 12 over Gulati, it is implicit in Gulati's teaching that the service offering would have included the managing of accounts receivable on behalf of the owner.

**Re. Claims 14, 26 & 37**, none of AAPA, Gulati, or Barron's explicitly disclose the detailed steps of managing the at least one accounts receivable comprising:

- maintaining contact with the associated merchant's buyers in order to effect timely discharge of indebtedness associated with the at least one accounts receivable;
- receiving a payment from a merchant's buyer associated with the at least one accounts receivable;
- sending a receipt for the payment associated with the at least one accounts receivable to the merchant's buyer;
- forwarding the payment to the owner of the at least one accounts receivable;
- updating the computer database recording the relevant payment; and,
- recording all transactions with regard to the management of the at least one account receivable in the computer database.

However, the steps necessary to manage accounts receivable were well known. It would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have combined the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's with the well known practice of accounts receivable management, motivated by the need to assure the collection of the accounts receivable underlying a security according to the contracted terms of the receivables, current owners of the accounts receivable and for the contractual requirements of the enhancement guarantors.

**Re. Claims 15 & 27**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's make implicit the steps of a trade as a primary market transaction concerning the sale of at least one accounts receivable from the first person, being the merchant of the at least one accounts receivable, to a successful bidder.

**Re. Claims 16 & 28**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, and Barron's make implicit the steps of a trade as a secondary market transaction concerning the sale of at least one accounts receivable from the first person, being the owner of the at least one accounts receivable, to a successful bidder.

**Re. Claims 17 & 29**, none of AAPA, Gulati, or Barron's explicitly disclose the trade of a distressed accounts receivable as a market transaction. However, Barron's discloses that the trading of distressed securities was well known at the time of Applicant's invention (p. 155, DISTRESS SALE, II. 1-3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for trading distressed accounts receivable as a market transaction. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, I. 66 – Col. 6, I. 2).

**Re. Claim 19**, none of AAPA, Gulati, or Barron's disclose a method wherein upon a merchant's buyer not making a payment timeously to discharge the debt associated with a first accounts receivable being one of the at least one accounts receivable according to the terms of the at least one accounts receivable, the step of managing the at least

one accounts receivable comprises consulting with owner of the at least one accounts receivable to determine the course of action, said course of action comprising one selected from the group consisting of: the owner waiting for the merchant's buyer to make the payment; and, the owner waiting for resolution of a dispute between the first owner and the merchant's buyer relating to the first accounts receivable before receiving the payment.. However, it is obvious that a manager of accounts receivables would consult with the owner of an accounts receivable to determine the course of action. Two viable options for the owner would be (a) The owner waiting for the merchant's buyer to make the payment; and, (b) the owner waiting for resolution of a dispute between the first owner and the merchant's buyer relating to the first accounts receivable before receiving the payment. It is obvious that the options would be based on a securitization structure which guarantees payment to the owner, potentially with interest, should there be a delay in eh payment timing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for managing the at least one accounts receivable by consulting with owner of the at least one accounts receivable to determine the course of action when a merchant's buyer has not made a payment timeously to discharge the debt associated with a first accounts receivable. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, l. 66 – Col. 6, l. 2).

**Re. Claim 20,** none of AAPA, Gulati, or Barron's disclose a method wherein upon a merchant's buyer not making a payment timeously to discharge the debt associated with a first accounts receivable being one of the at least one accounts receivable according to the terms of the at least one accounts receivable, the step of managing the at least one accounts receivable comprises consulting with owner of the at least one accounts receivable to determine the course of action, said course of action comprising one selected from the group consisting of: (a) the owner waiting for the merchant's buyer to make the payment; (b) the owner waiting for resolution of a dispute between the first owner and the

merchant's buyer relating to the first accounts receivable before receiving the payment; and, (c) the owner waiting for the provider of credit enhancement and the original owner to fulfill restitutional obligations. It is obvious that the options would be based on a securitization structure which guarantees payment to the owner, potentially with interest, should there be a delay in a payment's timing. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for managing the at least one accounts receivable by consulting with owner of the at least one accounts receivable to determine the course of action when a merchant's buyer has not made a payment timeously to discharge the debt associated with a first accounts receivable. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, I. 66 – Col. 6, I. 2).

**Re. Claim 21**, none of AAPA, Gulati, or Barron's explicitly disclose the trade is a distressed accounts receivable market transaction, and the group of courses of action further includes disposing of the first accounts receivable through the distressed accounts receivable market. However, Barron's discloses that the trading of distressed securities was well known at the time of Applicant's invention (p. 155, DISTRESS SALE, II. 1-3). Consequently, It would have been obvious for the ordinary practitioner to have sold a distressed accounts receivable. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice to design and offer a method and system for disposing of a distressed accounts receivable through the distressed accounts receivable market.. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, I. 66 – Col. 6, I. 2).

**Re. Claim 30**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice make it implicit that an accounts receivable, having enhanced credit quality to be a tradable

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security, is a financial instrument. AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice disclose and suggest a financial instrument for financial investment using a computer-based system comprising at least one accounts receivable owned by a first person, each account receivable of the at least one accounts receivable being associated with a merchant's buyer and a merchant, wherein a systems manager using the computer-based system:

- enrolls the at least one accounts receivable owned by the first person as a lot for the trade in a computer database (see claim 1 above);
- receives at least one bid from at least one bidder for purchasing the lot (see claim 1 above);
- determines the result of the trade for the lot (see claim 1 above); and
- the merchant enhances the credit quality of each of the at least one accounts receivable for bringing the credit quality of the at least one accounts receivable up to investment grade (see claim 3 above).

**Re. Claim 35**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice make it implicit that the systems manager using the computer-based system further:

- transfers the ownership of the at least one accounts receivable from the owner to a successful bidder, if any (see claim 9 above); and,
- facilitates the transfer of funds from the successful bidder, if any, to the owner (see claim 10 above).

**Re. Claim 38**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice make it implicit that the trade is one selected from the group consisting of:

- a primary market transaction concerning the sale of at least one accounts receivable from the first person, being the merchant of the at least one accounts receivable, to a successful bidder (see claim 15 above);
- a secondary market transaction concerning the sale of at least one accounts receivable from the first person, being the owner of the at least one accounts receivable, to a successful bidder (see claim 16 above); and,
- a distressed accounts receivable market transaction (see claim 17 above).

**Re. Claim 39**, the above cited disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's and Official Notice make it implicit that upon a merchant's buyer not making a payment timeously to discharge the debt associated with a first accounts receivable being one of the at least one accounts receivable according to the terms of the at least one accounts receivable, the step of managing the at least one accounts receivable comprises consulting with owner of the at least one accounts receivable to determine the course of action, said course of action comprising one selected from the group consisting of:

- the owner waiting for the merchant's buyer to make the payment (see claim 19 above); and,
- the owner waiting for resolution of a dispute between the first owner and the merchant's buyer relating to the first accounts receivable before receiving the payment (see claim 19 above);
- the owner waiting for the provider of credit enhancement and the original owner to fulfill restitutional obligations (see claim 20 above); and,
- where the trade is a distressed accounts receivable market transaction, the owner disposing of the first accounts receivable through the distressed accounts receivable market (see claim 21 above).

**4. Claim 18 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Prior Art (hereafter AAPA), Barron's Dictionary of Finance and Investment Terms (Fifth Edition, hereafter Barron's), Gulati (US Patent 6,778,968 B1) and Official Notice as applied to claims 6 and 13, and further in view of Graff (US Patent 6,192,347 B1).

**Re. Claim 18**, Barron's discloses a method of holding of funds in escrow as security until the conditions of a contract are met. Further, Graff discloses the use of escrowed funds in the securitization of real estate investments (Bringing a new financial product to market - Col. 2, ll. 51-60; Securitization – Col. 10, ll. 53-60; Escrow – Col. 191, l. 19 – Col. 193, l. 61). It was well known to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention that accounts receivable have certain characteristics, among

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which are the possibility of disputes between a merchant and a buyer regarding payment for a specific transaction based on possible disagreement regarding whether the buyer has received the full quality, service and timeliness of an order, and at times reasons which cause a buyer to not make timely payment or no payment at all for the delivery of a product or a service, or a combination thereof. A funds escrow was well known to have been used to maintain the investment grade of securities dependent on payments by third parties. Therefore, it would have been obvious to an ordinary practitioner of the art at the time of Applicant's invention to combine the disclosures of AAPA, Gulati, Barron's, Official Notice and Graff to design and offer a method and system for enrolling accounts receivable in a securitization program by providing an escrow facility as part of the securitization instrument. The motivation for this offering would have been the desire to satisfy a need for an automated compliance tracking and longitudinal loan analysis system to enable small parties to contract the delivering and servicing requirements of secondary market transactions to outside parties (Gulati, Col. 5, l. 66 – Col. 6, l. 2).

### ***Conclusion***

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Siegfried Chencinski whose telephone number is (571)272-6792. The Examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday, 9am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough, can be reached on (571) 272-6799.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

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*Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington D.C. 20231*


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SEC

May 8, 2006

  
FRANTZY POINVIL  
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